

THE
CANADIAN CATTLE AGITATION.

MR. GARDNER'S POLICY DENOUNCED.

PLAIN SPEAKING

BY

FARMERS

AT

PUBLIC MEETING IN TOWN HALL,
DUNDEE,

ON 1st AUGUST, 1893.

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THE CANADIAN CATTLE AGITATION.

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING IN DUNDEE.

MR. GARDNER DENOUNCED.

IMMEDIATE ACTION DEMANDED.

PROTESTS AGAINST PROTECTION.

A meeting of farmers and others interested was held in the Town Hall, Dundee, on Tuesday, for the purpose of protesting against the attitude of the Board of Agriculture refusing to withdraw the restrictions imposed on the importation of Canadian cattle. Due notice had been given of the gathering, and interest continued to grow in it since the recent visit of a deputation to London. Never before has a larger or more enthusiastic meeting of farmers been held in the city. Lord Provost Mathewson presided, and among those present were:—Baillie Perrie, Baillie M'Kinnon, Baillie Stuart, Treasurer Willsher, Captain Clayhills Henderson, R.S., Invergowie; ex-Lord Provost Hunter, ex-Lord Dean of Guild M'Grady, ex-Provost Ballingall, Mr John Alexander, Ballinlurg; Mr W. F. Bell, Barns of Claverhouse; Mr Andrew Hutcheson; Mr Wm. Smith, Balzeordie; Mr Robert Anderson, Balbrogie; Mr David Mitchell, Kinnaird; Mr Reid, Kilmundie, Glamis; Mr W. G. Duncan, Balkemback; Mr William Fenton, Templeton; Mr Peter Fenton, Dronley; Mr Thomas Myles, Newtyle; Mr T. S. Thoms, Benvie; Mr James Falconer, Lundie; Mr John Sturrock, Arbroath; Mr James Berry, Dundee; Mr David Ritchie, Balshandie; Mr David Forsyth, Lundie; Mr Peter Nicoll, North Auchray; Mr Alexander Bell, Davidston; Mr John Hunter, Wester Davidston; Mr Thomas Galloway, Cairnie, Glencarse; Mr William Smith, Lundie Castle; Mr George Young, Panlathry; Mr Stewart Turnbull, Camno; Mr James Bell, Gilchorn; Mr John Lowdon, Newton, Auchterhouse; Mr F. M. Batchelor, Craigie; Mr John Grant, Craig Mills; Mr J. G. Soutar, Westhall; Mr John Scott, Mains of Keithick, Coupar Angus; Mr Wm. Anderson, St Andrews; Mr Peter M'Intyre, Denflud; Mr James Mitchell, cake merchant; Mr Wm. Dott; Mr Jas. Slidders; Mr W. B. Paton, Monorgan, Longforgan; Mr R. Lumsden, Craigie; Mr Henry Prain, Castle Huntly; Mr Alex. Johnstone, Castle Mains; Mr David Nicoll, Strathmartine Castle; Mr A. B. Watson, Kirkton of Lundie; Mr Alex. Kay, V.S., Lochee; Mr A. H. Brown, grain merchant, Dundee; Mr Mollison, North Mains of Balhovan; Mr J. Adam, Bradlinton; Mr J. M. Duncan, Dundee; Mr Guthrie Batchelor, Craigie; Mr A. M. Prain, Rawes; Mr W. Hunter, V.S., Dundee; Mr W. Bell, Balnuth; Mr Alex. Batchelor, Milton of Finavon; Colonel F. Stewart Sandeman; Captain Cappon; Mr W. M'Kenzie, Broughty Ferry; Mr Thomas Robertson, Hatton Farm; ex-Baillie Speed, Dundee; Mr H. D. M'Combie, Milton of Kennay, Aberdeen; Mr Wm. Thomson, jun.; Mr D. C. Thomson; Mr H. Bain, Dundee; Mr David Bruce, Dundee; Mr James Graham, Mains of Baldoan, Dundee; Mr John Hanning, manager of

the Annandale Dairy Company; Mr Alex. Bell, Cransley; Mr Alex. Anderson, Berryhill; Mr Andrew Whitton of Couston; Mr J. T. Inglis, Dundee; Mr T. M. Nicoll, Littleton; Mr George Cowe, Balhousie; Mr L. Thomson, Charleston; Mr James Ritchie, Ballindean; Mr Jos. Reid, Kilmundie; Mr James Kydd, Seryne; Colonel Dickson, Panbride; Mr Robert Strachan, West Pilmore; Mr Andrew Bruce, Jordanstone; Mr Patrick Hunter, Waterybutts; Mr James Falconer, Clushmill; Mr Joseph J. Barrie, Dundee; Mr Andrew Dudgeon, Dundee; Mr R. Anderson, Middlebank; Mr Wm. Millar Keillor, Newtyle; Mr Fenton, Hill; Mr Fraser, Balmachie, Arbroath; Jas. Watson, Dundee; Dr Thornton, &c.

LOCAL MEMBERS AND THE QUESTION.

The LORD PROVOST at the outset intimated an apology for absence from Mr Waddell, dairyman, whom they had expected to take part in the proceedings. He then read a letter he had received from Sir John Leng, in which that gentleman said he was in entire sympathy with the resolutions to be proposed, and was to take the earliest possible opportunity of bringing the case they presented against the Slaughtering Order before the House of Commons. He should endeavour to make or take the opportunity on Thursday. It could be done in two ways, either by moving the adjournment of the House on a question of urgency, or by dealing with Item 10, Clause II., on the Vote on Account for Board of Agriculture. He had apprised all the members who had hitherto acted together on the subject of his intentions, and he counted on their support irrespective of party.

Next the Lord Provost read the following extract from a letter Sir John Rigby had sent to a friend in F. rfarshire:—

I am sorry that nothing can as yet be done in the matter of Canadian cattle. I have throughout pressed on the Minister of Agriculture the importance of the question, and urged the views of the Forfarshire farmers, but have not been able to induce him to take the same view of the facts as prevails in Forfarshire.

CANADA INJURED AS WELL AS SCOTLAND.

Captain CLAYHILLS HENDERSON moved—

That this meeting protests against the continuance of the restrictions on the importation of cattle from Canada, being of opinion—1st, that neither was their imposition nor is their continuance warranted by the circumstances of the cases on which they were founded, as it has not been proved that contagious pleuro-pneumonia has ever existed in Canada, or been found in this country as having been communicated by Canadian animals; 2d, that, therefore, a great injustice has been done to Canada and the agriculturists and general community of this country by the injurious and uncalled for interference with an important and growing industry vitally affecting the meat supply of the country.

He said he should like first of all to direct their attention to the fact that in this resolution there was not one contentious word. They did not wish, and he was perfectly certain nobody in the room

wished, the importation of Canadian cattle, if it could be proved that contagious pleuro-pneumonia existed in Canada, or had been introduced by cattle coming from the country after being landed here. That was borne out by Mr Chaplin. Mr Chaplin said, "If the facts were as stated, and as he himself understood them—namely, that the disease had been ascertained to be contagious pleuro-pneumonia that had been found amongst the Canadian cattle, and that it had not been contracted since their arrival in this country, then it was of immense importance that the slaughter of all animals from Canada should be pressed on the Board of Agriculture with all the force and weight the Council could command." He (Captain Henderson) was certain everybody in the room would agree with that, and would consider it was necessary that all Canadian cattle should be slaughtered on their arrival to ensure the health of their own herds if pleuro had been found. After the prohibition was put on in November last year a large number of cattle were landed from Canada in the country, and, as far as he was aware, there was not one single case of pleuro-pneumonia amongst these animals. Since the cattle trade had been resumed this spring about 40,000 animals had been landed at the various ports of Great Britain, and as had been clearly brought out by the deputation when they waited upon Mr Gardner recently—he forgot the gentleman who made the statement—he thought it was Mr Andrew Hutcheson—out of the 40,000 animals landed only one case of suspected pleuro had been discovered. When this was stated, Mr Gardner curtly interjected that there were two more, or that there were three, or something like that. When Mr Hutcheson again referred to the fact that there had only been one case, Mr Gardner again jerked out that he had before informed the deputation that there were three cases. He (Captain Henderson) had carefully read Mr Gardner's reply, and in it he never explained, and never said anything about the two other cases referred to. He (Captain Henderson) had carefully read everything that had been said since, and he knew of nothing that could justify the short, jerky sentence, "There are two more." He thought Mr Gardner should have been more courteous to them. He had made promises to them on every occasion. He himself was a member of the first deputation, and he heard his promises made with crocodile tears that he was obliged to impose the restrictions on all Canadian cattle. What had these crocodile tears brought? Promises! Promises! Promises! Nothing. What explanation had been given? None. Not one iota of satisfaction had been given to any one of the gentlemen who attended on any one of these deputations, nor to the vast mass of Scottish cattle-feeders who were interested in the subject. All that they got was promises day after day. Dr Farquharson, Mr Buchanan, Sir John Leng, and others had questioned Mr Gardner in the House. Although

TEN MONTHS HAD NOW PASSED

not one syllable of explanation had been given. They had had contradictions, but they had had no explanations. He thought the words of Sir Charles Tupper, if carefully read by those who were interested in the matter, were a convincing proof that there was no pleuro in Canada. From the history they had had of the cases which happened in November last, he felt sure that no pleuro-pneumonia was introduced by Canadian cattle. (Hear, hear.) There were many others in this district, in the immediate district, where the first act of this curious drama took place, who, for many reasons, did not believe that pleuro was then introduced into the country. First of all, their Scottish veterinarians, whom

they declined to think were second to any veterinarians in any part of the country, and whom they declined to think were inferior to the advisers of the Board of Agriculture, had over and over again reiterated that this was not contagious pleuro. Therefore, as Scotchmen, it was their bounden duty to remonstrate with the Minister of Agriculture till they got these restrictions removed. Not only did they place their trust in the talented men who had spoken on the subject—Professor Williams and several others—but they had the evidence of a very great scientist who declared this was not contagious pleuro. There was one thing in connection with the case to which they strongly objected. The Minister of Agriculture would not allow them to have a look at the lungs, or to inspect the cattle, or do anything. Not only so, but the Minister of Agriculture was questioned in the House of Commons the other day—he thought by Sir John Leng—as to the fact of Sir Charles Tupper having offered to pay the expense of any veterinary surgeons who might go to Canada to examine into the question of pleuro there. Mr Gardner's reply was that he had not been officially informed. Yet they had Sir Charles Tupper's own words that he had actually made this offer to the Minister of Agriculture. If he did not individually make it to him, it was made at a public meeting in the Westminster Palace Hotel previous to the deputation waiting on Mr Gardner. Then there was another question which bore on this matter. Mr Gardner made the statement in one of his speeches that Ireland was a part of the United Kingdom as far as the administration of the Contagious Diseases Cattle Act went. Thereupon he (Captain Henderson) wrote to Sir John Leng asking the question if Ireland was under the administration of the Contagious Diseases Cattle Act. Sir John Leng wrote saying no, and he (Captain Henderson) said no. (Applause.) So far as the administration of the Cattle Diseases Act was concerned, Ireland was a foreign country—as much a foreign country as Canada. (Hear, hear.) The Contagious Diseases Animals Act in Ireland was in the hands of the Lord-Lieutenant and the Privy Council, and Mr Gardner could not lift his finger in regard to its operations across the Channel. He might

SCHEDULE IRELAND,

and prevent cattle from being landed in this country from Ireland in the same way as was being done just now with Canadian cattle, but that was all he could do. Another question had cropped up in the course of a conversation he had the other day. He had been informed that they were to have cheap cattle from England. Some breeders in England considered that they had more cattle than they wanted. Yes, but why was it? Because they had not a blade of grass—not one blade of grass had they got in England—to feed them, and they were only too glad, therefore, to get rid of their cattle; they were only too glad to drive them north here. (Applause.) When they had blades of grass and plenty of roots they kept them for their own benefit. In all the circumstances, he had much pleasure in moving the resolution which stood in his name. (Loud applause.)

Mr R. ANDERSON, Balbrogie, seconded. He could not understand, he said, how Mr Gardner was not convinced before this of the failure of saying pleuro-pneumonia existed among Canadian cattle. (Applause.) He had had Canadian cattle every year since they were imported into Glasgow, and he had not yet had a Canadian bullock but went away on his own feet, and that was a thing which could not be said of English, Irish, or even Scottish cattle. They were the hardest cattle they had ever got to feed, and it was hard to them in Forfarshire and in Perthshire that they could not get free trade in cattle. As well put a tax on

wheat as on cattle—(applause)—for they had more need of a tax on wheat than on cattle. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) He had much pleasure in seconding this resolution. (Applause.)

The motion was put to the meeting, and there being no opposition, it was unanimously carried.

Mr JOHN ALEXANDER, Ballindarg, moved—

That this meeting is of opinion—1st, that the effect of these restrictions if maintained will be to increase instead of diminish the risk of the dissemination of disease through the exclusion of Canadian cattle, which are the healthiest that can be imported; and, 2d, that the interests of Canada and of this country demand that these restrictions should be at once removed, and free entry and distribution alive throughout the country again allowed to cattle from Canada.

The resolution, he thought, was so plain that it required not two words from him. He had to say, however, that he cordially agreed with almost every word that fell from his gallant neighbour Captain Clayhills Henderson. (Hear, hear.) In no way could Mr Gardner or his Board of Agriculture justify the action they had taken. He said that not only in regard to the recent action of killing nearly 40,000, but also in reference to putting on the restrictions originally. To his mind there was

NO CASE OF PLEURO-PNEUMONIA

proved as affecting any one of the Canadian cattle introduced by the two ships which arrived at Dundee last season. "These cases" were disputed by the best veterinary skill they had in Scotland, and declared not to be contagious pleuro. (Applause.) In face of that, and in face that the trade would be stopped for the season, Mr Gardner, through a very extreme act of folly, scheduled Canada when there was not the slightest material cause for fear. But it was not the fact only of scheduling Canada. Where, he asked any gentlemen—favourable or unfavourable to these restrictions—could they find cattle as healthy as Canadian cattle? Let them go through the whole universe and he would defy them to find any place so free from disease of any kind in cattle as in Canada. Ireland of late years—the only place before the introduction of Canadians to which they could resort—had rather decreased in its supply of store cattle, and at the same time Ireland was a country, not, he believed, the worst under the sun, but certainly one of the worst—(hear, hear)—in regard to disease. He thought it sheer folly on the part of any Government or any Department of a Government to schedule a country so clean as Canada, and to allow cattle—he supposed they could not prevent it—to come in from Ireland. If they were restricted to Ireland for their cattle they were certain to have disease, and disease of an infectious kind called pleuro. Only the other day they had in Dundee a case of undoubted pleuro. Did that case come from Canada? No. If the Harbour of Dundee had been open at this time for Canadian cattle it was very possible that this case of contagious pleuro in the city would never have happened, as it was more than likely that the dairyman would have gone to the depot and purchased a Canadian cow. But he was obliged to go to the Dundee Cattle Market and buy a cow imported, as he understood, from Dublin. He thought that fact proved up to the hilt the statement in the resolution that instead of tending to diminish the risk of disease in this country the policy of the Board of Agriculture actually had a tendency the other way. With respect to the second part of the resolution, if they were to be precluded from getting cattle from the best known regions he did not know how agriculture was to go on in this country. For any Government—for a Government called a Liberal Government, at any rate—to practically adopt what he would call veiled Protection was an action they ought to have no sympathy with, and he was very glad to be present to move that resolu-

tion, because he thought it was high time that every one, be he Liberal or Tory, should let the Government know that they were not for Protection in any shape or form. ("Hear, hear, and applause.") If they were to have

FREE TRADE ALL ROUND,

and only restriction of the agricultural interests and the cattle trade, better far open the whole ports to all the world than have anything to do with such a thing. They did not wish to import disease, but they must have cattle in some way, and surely let them have cattle from the country freest in the world from disease, namely, Canada. (Loud applause.)

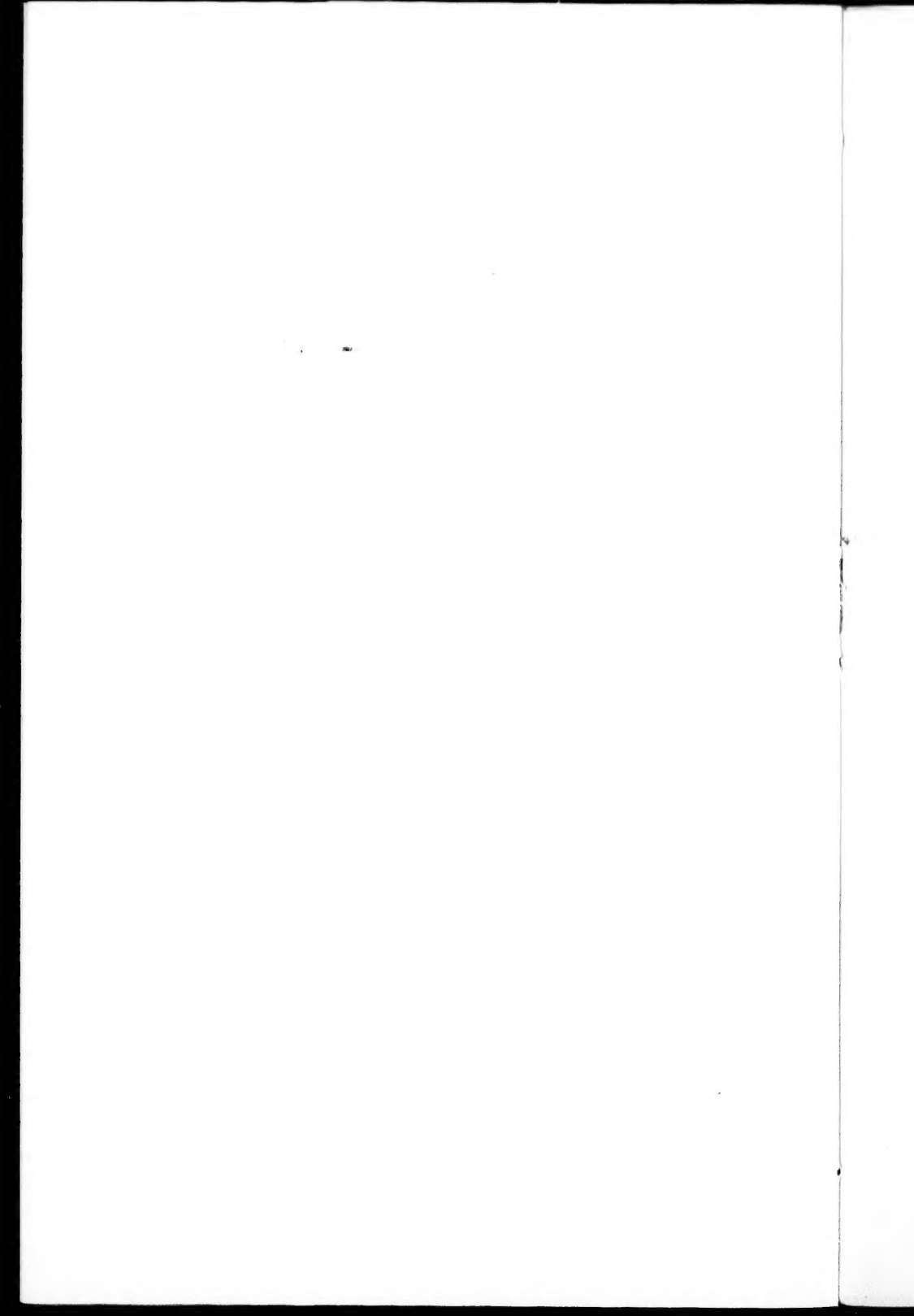
Mr Peter Fenton, Drouley, formally seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr Wm. SMITH, Balzeordie, moved the third resolution as follows:—

That this meeting is of opinion—1st, that the imposition and continuance of the restrictions were due entirely to the mistaken and despite diagnosis and course of procedure of the veterinary advisers of the Board of Agriculture, whose investigations are conducted in secret, and are not subject to review; and 2d, that as the Board of Agriculture is practically its President for the time being, and as by the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act it is provided that the Board shall allow the importation of cattle from any country if it is satisfied that that can be done as to afford reasonable security against the importation therefrom of diseased animals, while it does not prescribe any particular means by which the Board is to be satisfied, the decisions in regard to suspected cases of infectious or contagious disease should not, as hitherto, rest solely with the Board's present veterinary advisers without the right of appeal, but that the President should avail himself of the best skill and advice to be had either in this or other countries.

In submitting the resolution Mr Smith remarked that there was an old saying that "Collins the friend not Short." He stood there to tell them that Gardner was the enemy, not Chaplin. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Captain Clayhills Henderson had pointed out that Mr Gardner's excuse was always "I cannot help you, sir. I have an Act of Parliament to administer. If you want anything else you must come not to me, but go to the House of Commons." His (Mr Smith's) pocket was very well filled with letters from members of Parliament all to the same tune. Mr Gardner was very anxious and very sorry, but he could not help himself. (Laughter.) This was a law-abiding country; Mr Gardner was a public servant—he supposed he had got a salary of several thousands a year—(laughter)—and he must obey the law. (Renewed laughter.) Now this had been Mr Gardner's way from the beginning. He (Mr Smith) disputed it, and he would prove to them that Mr Gardner was talking nonsense, and that the member for the county, from whom they had a letter, and other members of Parliament who had been writing letters, were also talking nonsense. (Great laughter and applause.) Mr Gardner said to the last deputation that he was not only bound to administer this Act as he did administer it, but that if any of these Scottish farmers were in his place then that Scottish farmer would be obliged when the responsibilities of office fell upon him to administer the Act as he himself did. He (Mr Smith) should like to think of Mr Alexander or Mr Hutcheson doing as Mr Gardner did. (Laughter.) These gentlemen had not had the chance, but Mr Gardner was not always President of the Board of Agriculture. Not long ago that place was filled by another man named Chaplin. How did it happen that, while Mr Gardner was stopping and annihilating this trade for the time being because his veterinary surgeons had reported there were three suspicious cases of pleuro, Mr Chaplin, under the same Act in 1890, though there were reported to him four cases, did not close the trade? (Loud applause.) He submitted that he had proved that Gardner was the

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enemy, not Chaplin. (Renewed applause.) The fact was that Mr Gardner had done—he did not know whether he had been forced to do it by political reasons—(hear, hear)—or whether he was simply leaving too much to his officials—but, however it might have come, Mr Gardner had done what Mr Chaplin would have very much liked to do, but dare not. (Applause.) The resolution before them referred to the President of the Board of Agriculture taking advice outside his own veterinary surgeons. The last time he (Mr Smith) was in that hall he ventured to give Mr Gardner some advice, and he would now point out that if that advice had been taken they should not now have been discussing whether the pleuro found in those animals was

CONTAGIOUS OR THE REVERSE.

He suggested that instead of killing the cattle Mr Gardner should adopt quarantine. The thing could be done with perfect safety, and, instead of killing the cattle, if Mr Gardner had placed the most of them in isolation it could have been settled ere now whether there was contagious pleuro in these Canadian cattle or not. What was Mr Gardner's answer to this argument? He said, "My veterinary surgeons have such experience—(laughter)—their judgment is beyond the judgment of all other veterinary surgeons." He (Mr Smith) just asked them to examine the statement about experience. As he understood it, experience meant that if a man went to market and did a certain stroke of business, and found it did not pay, he would by-and-by give it up. What experience had these veterinary surgeons of Mr Gardner's? A lung was sent up to them, and, of course, before they could have the lung the beast must be killed. They looked at the lung, and they said, "Oh, it is contagious pleuro," and they ordered all the cattle in contact with the beast to be killed. They might be right or they might be wrong—he was not saying they were wrong, and he was certainly not to say they were right—(laughter)—but he was simply to submit that they were not infallible. (Loud applause.) They might err, and, supposing they did err, how was their error to be discovered? (Hear, hear.) Dead cattle, like dead men, told no tales, and so far as he could see they would go on throughout their natural lives killing cattle like Samson of old, killing them by the thousands, and they would never discover whether this test of theirs was a true test or not. (Applause.) He stood there to plead in much the same words as he had always pleaded on that question. Some people swore by one set of veterinary surgeons, and others by another set, but he believed in the injunction of Holy Writ, "Swear not at all." (Laughter.) He was not prepared to place the trade of this country at the mercy of three veterinary surgeons, and what he maintained was that their test should be tested. Mr Gardner got the report that there was one case of pleuro, or there were three cases—it was not very clear which, as there was a certain mystery about the matter—(laughter)—and he seemed to rest his case on one animal that came by the steamer Lake Winnipeg. He had already told them what Mr Chaplin did. Mr Chaplin did not order the trade to be stopped; he did not slaughter a great many cattle, but what happened? The cattle which were associated with those four cattle that were said to be diseased were spread all over Scotland and part of England. After those four cases were reported to Mr Chaplin there were in Mr Chaplin's time some quarter of a million cattle landed from Canada. They went all over the country, and yet no man could say there was any pleuro brought to Scotland or England by this quarter of a million cattle. They could not even say there was the slightest suspicion that any beast in Scotland or England was ever injured in the

remotest degree by those cattle. Suppose Mr Gardner had been President he would have stopped the cattle trade there and then. I have to say to you, then, continued Mr Smith, that Gardner is our enemy in this business. I am sorry to make such a strong statement against such a courteous gentleman. He is a very approachable man—(laughter)—and I think that is an excellent quality in a public man in Great Britain. His ear seems to be as open to the cry of the humble tenant farmer from Scotland as it is to any of his own class in London, but courtesy is not everything in business. (Hear, hear.) I hold that Mr Gardner has erred in this business, and erred exceedingly, and so long as he stands to his error we must fight him. (Loud applause.) And what is more, gentlemen, we will beat him. (Renewed applause.) Proceeding, Mr Smith said Mr Gardner's policy would soon land him in trouble. He would be in trouble with the Canadian Government, and, what was more, he would get into trouble with the Canadian people. In Canada there was a certain party rising—growing, he understood—which was in favour of dissolving the link that joined the colony to the mother country. He was told that if one went into a farmer's house in Canada he would find the father and the mother loyal to Great Britain, but the son and the daughter were not so sure. That was

A BAD SIGN,

and he maintained that Mr Gardner by his policy was playing into the hands of that party in Canada which wanted to dissolve the connection between Canada and Great Britain. (Applause.) It was said that history was apt to repeat itself. They read that about a hundred years ago, through the obstinacy of an old King, the people of these islands lost a great inheritance in the United States, and apparently our successors were to read in another page of history that a hundred years later, towards the end of the nineteenth century, in these days of popular government, not through the obstinacy of an old King, but through the obstinacy of an old veterinary surgeon—(great laughter)—the same calamity happened again. He could not believe that folly would be allowed to spread so far. A great Parliamentary leader once said this country was not governed by justice or by commonsense, but by the House of Commons. (Laughter.) Now, that saying was true to this hour. The question had been asked in connection with the cattle trade—"Why not schedule Ireland?" There was this difference between Ireland and Canada, supposing there was no technical difficulty, as he believed, there was. Ireland had 103 members in the House of Commons, and Canada had not any. If Canada had had 103 members in the House of Commons, he did not believe the cattle trade would have been stopped. But Mr Gardner would get into trouble on this side of the Atlantic as well as the other side. The class which supported him was not predominant in the House of Commons. One hundred and three members were a strong support; they were described as anti-this or anti-that—(laughter)—but in the matter of the cattle trade they were all anti-Canadians. (Renewed laughter.) The great majority of the members of Parliament who actively supported Mr Gardner were strong for Protection in other matters besides the cattle trade, but there was in the House of Commons a representation of the great commercial spirit of the age, and that representation was too strong for the Protectionists pure and simple. Until now, however, that representation had not been sufficiently educated to understand this question, and he suspected that was what they had got to do. They had to fight Mr Gardner—he would not be persuaded—and the way they could force him was to appeal

from the representatives of the English farmers to the representatives of the English towns. They could easily show them their interests were the same as those of the farmers of Scotland; and he believed, if they appealed to these men with the force of enterprise usually associated with the name of Scotland, their appeal would not be in vain. (Loud applause.)

Mr ANDREW WHITTON of Couston seconded. He had much pleasure, he said, in seconding the resolution so eloquently made by Mr Smith; and in doing so he felt it would be presumption for him to add a single word to what he had so well said. (Applause.)

This resolution was also unanimously carried.

THE WAY TO PRACTICAL ACTION.

Mr W. F. BELL, Barns of Claverhouse, proposed:—

That this meeting, being of opinion that the members of Parliament are not sufficiently acquainted with the circumstances which led to the restrictions being imposed and continued, approves of what has been done in forwarding to each of these members copies of the statement by Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, made to members of Parliament and parties interested in the trade preliminary, to the interview with the President of the Board of Agriculture on the 13th July last, and resolves that copies of this and the foregoing resolutions be also forwarded to these gentlemen, and that they be requested to exert their influence to have the restrictions immediately removed, and to support the forthcoming motion in Committee of Supply of which notice has been given by Sir John Leng, Mr Parker Smith, and Mr Wm. Whitlaw.

He did not intend, he said, to detain them many minutes after the eloquent speeches they had heard that day. The resolution he submitted was the only one pointing to the way in which they were to get redress on this question. Mr Gardner was not their Government, and, if they went back a long way, they ruled him, and he felt the only course now left open was for them to approach members of Parliament and tell them they really were in earnest. (Applause.) He was convinced in his own mind that their members of Parliament only required a little backing up, because, with very few exceptions, they were pledged to the policy of Free Trade, and they could not fail to see that this was neither more nor less than Protection. There was an umbrella spread over it to quieten it down, but there were as many holes in the umbrella as allowed them to see through it. (Applause.) The pretences put forth for the stopping of this trade would not hold water, and he failed to see how any Government could, on a mere pretext, stop such an important trade, considering the large number of cattle imported, and the trifling signs of disease displayed by them. (Applause.) But there was no use beating about the bush—the Irishmen were masters of the situation. (Applause.) They might keep it in the background, but it would come to the front, and it would be when the question came to be voted on in the House of Commons on Thursday. He was glad their friend Mr Alexander was there to-day. He had a certain influence with the Member for Forfarshire—(laughter)—and he advised him to tell Mr Rigby that he would have nothing more to do with him unless he came forward and supported the views expressed at that meeting. (Applause.) In the latter part of the resolution there was mention made of Sir John Leng and Mr Parker Smith and Mr W. Whitlaw bringing forward the matter; and to Sir John Leng in particular the thanks of the community was due for the manner in which he had kept the question alive in Parliament. (Applause.)

Mr WM. MILLAR, Kiellor, Newtyle, seconded. He hoped their meeting that day would have the

effect of making their Parliamentary representatives take

MORE INTEREST IN THE MATTER

than some of them had apparently been doing. If they did so, not only the justice but the necessities of their demands being complied with would be recognised. (Applause.) He hoped in his further endeavours Sir John Leng would receive such support as would induce the Board of Agriculture to relax the restrictions, which were alike prejudicial to the farming interests as well as to the interests of the general public. (Loud applause.)

Colonel DICKSON, Panbride, then said—My Lord Provost, I should like to ask a question. It is currently reported, and it is believed, that the member who advised Mr Gardner on this question was our member for the county. As Mr John Alexander is here, perhaps he will be able to say whether that is true or not? (Great laughter and applause.)

The LORD PROVOST said he thought from the letter read that day from Sir John Rigby, these remarks were quite uncalled for. They must remember that Sir John Rigby is a member of the Government, and certain etiquette was required on the part of Sir John, who, in every way, had been trying to do his duty to the farmers of Forfarshire in this matter. (Hear, hear.)

Mr SMITH of Balzeordie said as to the remark their friend Colonel Dickson had made he meant to say that Sir John had advised Mr Gardner on the question of law. Sir John was not a judge of pleuro. (Laughter.) He was no authority whatever; every man in the room was a greater authority than Sir John. (Renewed laughter.) What he advised Mr Gardner about was the letter of the law, but it was for Mr Gardner to determine whether he was satisfied that the case was one of pleuro or not. The blame, if blame there was, rested on Gardner's shoulders and no others. (Applause.)

Mr ANDREW HUTCHESON rose to support the motion. He could, he said, bear testimony that when in London Mr Alexander spoke very forcibly to Sir John Rigby on this subject, telling him he

NEED NOT SHOW HIS FACE

in Forfarshire again so long as the restrictions were maintained. (Applause.) That was a pretty strong statement for Sir John Rigby's Chairman of Committee to make to Sir John, but Mr Alexander gave it him very heavily and very plainly. (Applause.) Mr Smith's opinion was the proper one, that Sir John Rigby had only to interpret the law to Mr Gardner. He thought they would all agree with him that the trade was condemned on insufficient evidence, because condemned on miserable microscopic evidence. They were unable to say for weeks that the case was one of pleuro. If they looked at the lung that came to Dundee last week, any of them could at once say it was contagious pleuro; but here they had cattle coming across the Atlantic, and they took three or four weeks to tell them whether it was pleuro or not, and at last they had to send the lung for reference to the microscope. There had been a lot said about the Irish question and about Irish cattle being mixed up with this one of the Canadians, but that could not be helped. The trades were somewhat antagonistic. If the Canadian cattle trade were not blocked much less could be got for the Irish cattle. He was speaking the other day to an Irish dealer in Messrs Macdonald & Fraser's Auction Mart in Perth. This was before they went to London, and he was asked if there was any prospect of the restrictions being renewed. He (Mr H.) replied that he hoped there was, whereupon the Irishman answered—"Faith, and I don't, for it puts £2 per head on each beast I sell in the autumn if we don't get them from Canada." That showed the view which the Irish

farmer and the Irish dealer must take of the question. He believed the breeders of the country were looking at this question from

TOO NARROW A VIEW,

for if he spoke from his own personal purse at the moment he would go in for the *status quo*. But what would be the consequence? They would bring the cattle market to the level of grain-growing. He had been offered 22s per quarter that day for grain, and it would not pay any man to grow it at that figure, he cared not what country he selected; and he prophesied that, without Canadians, their cattle-breeding and cattle-feeding would in two years' time be brought to such a low state that the land of his friend Capt. Clayhills-Henderson and the other proprietors would not be worth a rap. (Laughter.) It was not worth much at present, but it would be worth less if these restrictions continued. He was glad to see the meeting was so unanimous and so well attended, although he believed that but for the feeding market in Fife that day they would have had a large representation of *life agriculturists* to support them. How-

ever, they must peg away and show they were not satisfied. Reference had been made to Ireland, and the Act on which Mr Gardner proceeded said that he was to see there was "reasonable security for the admission of store cattle." That did not mean they were to slaughter 40,000 cattle in order to get a suspicious lung; they would get a suspicious lung no matter what country the cattle were from. If it meant that they must be perfectly clean there was no use for the Act at all. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and was cordially and heartily adopted.

The LORD PROVOST said this was a question in which not only they, the farmers of Forfarshire, were interested, but also one in which the community of Dundee was concerned. They had had much good speaking on this matter, which he hoped would do good in furthering the object they had in view. (Applause.)

On the motion of ex-Lord Provost Hunter, a hearty vote of thanks was awarded the Lord Provost for presiding, and the meeting, which was of an enthusiastic character throughout, then ended.

A WARNING TO MR. GARDNER.

If Mr Gardner is wise on his own behalf as well as on behalf of the Ministry with which he is connected, he will not neglect the lesson taught him by the agitation which is being so briskly conducted all over Scotland against the unwarrantable restrictions he has imposed upon the importation of Canadian cattle. Since Aberdeen opened the campaign there has been a steadfast outpour of expostulation against the Protective policy which Mr Gardner has enforced. Meetings have now been held in Aberdeen, Laurencekirk, Brechin, Arbroath, and Dundee, and next week Forfar, Cupar Fife, and a number of other agricultural centres will formally join in the protest that is being so firmly offered. In Dundee yesterday there was some very plain speaking. The farmers who addressed the meeting evidently had the subject thoroughly at heart, and in unmistakable as well as in eloquent language they expressed their determination not to submit to the grievances which had been unnecessarily imposed upon them. Mr John Alexander, Ballindarg, who is a steadfast and conscientious friend of the present Ministry, stated the case manfully and forcibly. He showed that no Government which practically adopted a system of veiled Pro-

tection was entitled to the sympathy of the farmers in this part of the country, and he urged upon those present to let the Government know that they were not for Protection in any shape or form. Coming as they did from one of the strongest supporters of the present Government, these words ought to have a beneficial effect upon Mr Gardner. By the shilly-shallying policy which was so fully exposed by Mr Smith, Captain Clayhills-Henderson, Mr Hutcheson, and the other speakers, Mr Gardner has not only injured the agricultural industry of this country, but is also materially weakening the influence of the Ministry. Unless he is prepared to resile from the illogical and, therefore, untenable position he now persists in occupying, Her Majesty's Ministers will lose the majority of their supporters in rural districts. This question of interference with the free importation of healthy cattle is one which affects the whole rural population. By the prohibitory Order heavy losses are caused to farmers, who will consequently be unable to pay fair rates of wages to their employes. Ploughmen as well as farmers will, in these circumstances, undoubtedly unite to overthrow the authors of a system of Protection, which cannot possibly be

justified. If Mr Gardner does not apprehend the inevitable results of his policy, he may rest assured that his colleagues are not equally obtuse. He is, at the present moment, a thorn in their flesh, and they are scarcely likely to be grateful to him for the troubles into which he has precipitated them. In his own interests, then, as well as in the interests of his colleagues, Mr Gardner ought to think twice before persisting in a course so detrimental to the prospects of the agricultural classes.

There are some who still contend that Mr Gardner is obliged to adopt the view of the Board of Agriculture's veterinary surgeons. This hallucination should not exist after the proceedings of yesterday. Experienced agriculturists such as Mr Whitton, Couston; Mr Anderson, Balbrogie; Mr Peter Fenton, Dronley; Mr Bell, Barns of Claverhouse; and Mr Wm. Millar, Keillor, were able to testify that Canadian cattle are the healthiest obtainable at the present time. As Mr Hutcheson said, no farmer requires a microscope before he can say whether a diseased lung is really affected by contagious pleuro-pneumonia. Practical experience is a far better test than any microscope, and when over a million cattle have been imported from Canada without bringing contagious pleuro-pneumonia to Great Britain, no further demonstration of the healthy character of the animals from the Dominion is required. Apart from these con-

siderations, however, there is the fact that Mr Gardner's veterinary advisers have in the past committed serious blunders. Without referring again to the mistakes made in the cases of the horses Maccash, Cedric, and Knight Templar, and without alluding to the alleged discovery of Texan fever, it is sufficient to remind the public that it was these same veterinary surgeons who in 1890 reported to Mr Chaplin that pleuro-pneumonia had been discovered in Canadian cattle. Mr Chaplin on that occasion did not schedule Canada, nor did he order the slaughter of the animals that had been in contact with the cattle declared to have been affected. Yet there was no outbreak of the disease, so that clearly the verdict of the veterinary surgeons upon the lungs submitted to them was totally inaccurate. In the face of these facts, it is impossible for any sane man to contend that the advice of these advisers must be accepted. For some reason or other it has pleased Mr Gardner to take refuge behind his veterinary advisers, but by doing so he is weakening rather than strengthening his position. It can be proved beyond dispute that Canada is free from pleuro-pneumonia, and as they are fully conscious of this the agriculturists of Scotland are warranted in emphatically declining to tolerate the present restrictions.—(*Dundee Courier, 2nd August.*)

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